

January 2004

SOUTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Major Phil Tilt

## Overview

In January 2004, the Southern Command percentage of staffed traffic sergeant and trooper positions increased dramatically. The six cadets assigned to the current lateral academy and 14 cadets assigned to the February recruit academy has dropped the vacancy rate to 10.7% of the authorized traffic positions, as compared to an approximate 33% vacancy rate in January 2003. Staffed commercial sergeant and trooper positions increased to 100% of authorized, as compared to an approximate 57% vacancy rate in January 2003. On paper, the Southern Command has filled a substantial number of the vacancies that we have been operating with for the past several years. However, until the new personnel have successfully completed their initial training and gained a basic level of operational experience, the Command will continue to struggle with a shortage of personnel working the road. There were no new dispatchers hired in January to fill any of the 18 vacant dispatch positions. The Command did close the current dispatch recruitment with 135 dispatch applications received. Eighty three of the applicants have returned their information packages and are in the initial background process. The Center will continue to struggle with the lack of manpower until a significant number of vacant positions are filled and the personnel are trained.

Southern Command personnel handled 929 crashes during January 2004, as compared to 844 total crashes in January 2003. This was an increase of 10.1%. There was a total of 10 fatal crashes in January 2004 and 12 people died, compared to 9 fatal crashes in January 2003 where 9 people died. The Southern Command documented a 21% decrease in the overall number of commercial vehicle crashes. We investigated 49 total commercial crashes in the month of January 2004, as compared to 62 in January 2003. Of the commercial crashes investigated this month, there were 2 resulting in fatalities, 8 resulting in injuries, and the remaining were property damage. Crashes involving commercial vehicles represented 5.3% of the total crashes handled by Southern Command in January 2004. The Southern Command Commercial Section will continue to focus on hazardous moving and out-of-service violations.

The Southern Command continues to see improvements, reflected in the overall activity level Southern Command increased occupant restraint enforcement, DUI prior to crash, and total persons arrested, as compared to January 2003. Southern Command Commercial Operations continues to increase their activity in many areas when compared to January 2003. Some notable areas of this trend include increases of 67.7% in hazardous moving violations, 60.7% in total vehicles placed out-of-service, and 136.8% in overweight citations. Southern Command personnel continue to perform their duties under increasing work loads in a professional manner, and I continue to commend their hard work and dedication.

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## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	January-04	January-03	% Change	December-03	% Change
Total Crashes	929	844	10.1%	1085	-14.4%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	663	609	8.9%	763	-13.1%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	256	226	13.3%	316	-19%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	10	9	11.1%	6	66.7%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	49	42	16.7%	36	36.1%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	12	9	33.3%	6	100%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	3	3	0.0%	1	200%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	1	-100%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	6	2	200%	1	500%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	1	0	100%	1	0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	2	4	-50%	2	0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	49	62	-21%	50	-2%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	39	48	-18.8%	37	5.4%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	8	12	-33.3%	13	-38.5%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	2	2	0%	0	200%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.1%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 5.3%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 30.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 5.3%

During the month of January, the Southern Command accomplished a reduction in property damage and injury crashes, as compared to December 2003. This reduction was the result of efforts in Enforcement, Education, and Engineering.

Some highlights this month include:

- Increased directed enforcement within the high crash corridors.
- On-going road construction projects have evolved into “nighttime only”. This reduces the negative impact of construction on commuter traffic.
- Increased media releases and education, on troubled spots and alternate routes.

The fatal crashes continued to occur at various times and locations, in no specific, identifiable pattern.

*Commercial Crash Analysis reference page 8*

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS	January -04		January -03	% Change		December-03	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes ##	49		42	16.7%		36	36.1%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	121		115	5.2%		133	-9.0%
Other Arrests	642		1004	-36.1%		732	-12.3%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) ##	344		334	3.0%		340	1.2%
Speed violations	3125		3642	-14.2%		2868	9.0%
Hazardous moving violations	1895		1898	-0.2%		1915	-1.0%
Occupant restraint violations *	630		456	38.2%		648	-2.8%
Total violations [above violations included]	9859		9965	-1.1%		9504	3.7%
<b>COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	30		18	66.7%		28	7.1%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	137		256	-46.5%		89	53.9%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	411		524	-21.6%		496	-17.1%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	1		N/A	#VALUE!		N/A	#VALUE!
Total safety violations -- citation	194		262	-26.0%		144	34.7%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1582		2766	-42.8%		1558	1.5%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	188		117	60.7%		123	52.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	71		79	-10.1%		61	16.4%
Total school buses inspected	133		263	-49.4%		71	87.3%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	15		38	-60.5%		12	25.0%
Total trucks weighed	167		390	-57.2%		75	122.7%
Total overweight citations	45		19	136.8%		14	221.4%
Total dyed fuel inspections	412		524	-21.4%		505	-18.4%
Total dyed fuel citations	1		2	-50.0%		0	100.0%

\* Seat belt and child restraint

## Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

### TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ANALYSIS

During January we maintained most enforcement levels, and increased occupant restraint citations issued. The current trainees are in their final phase of PSTO training. Upon release these troopers are expected to demonstrate a marked increase in activity. In January 2004, the Southern Command conducted 550 more hours of training than in December 2003. This was a 47.9% increase.

*Commercial Crash Analysis reference page 8*

## STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

	Total Authorized Positions		Current Positions Staffed		Vacancy Rate	
STAFFING	January-04	January-03	Administrative Assignment	Field Operations	Positions Vacant	Vacancy Rate Percentage
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	149	153	42**	91	16.0	10.7%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	26	30	14**	12	0	0%
Commercial CVSI	5	5	0	4	1.0	20%
BELOW WORK HOURS ARE FIELD OPERATIONS PERSONNEL ONLY						
WORK HOURS LOST	January-04		January-03	% Change	December-03	% Change
Annual leave	604.75		824	-26.6%	2050.5	-70.5%
Compensatory leave	265		460.5	-42.5%	358.25	-26%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	1108.20		1239.5	-10.6%	1264.2	-12.3%
Military leave	32		390	-91.8%	248	-87.1%
Holiday off	123		99.5	23.6%	234	-47.4%
Training	1700.83		1594	6.7%	1150.25	47.9%
Administrative leave	130.50		21	521.4%	38.5	239%
Leave without pay	0		0	0%	0	0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	2941		12802	-77%	8477	-65.3%
<b>Total work hours lost</b>	6905.28		17409.5	-60.3%	13820.7	-50%
OVERTIME	January-04		January-03	% Change	December-03	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	2042.15		1645.91	24.1%	2194.2	-6.9%
Compensatory overtime claimed	190.17		117.91	61.3%	211.63	-10.1%
<b>Total overtime hours</b>	2232.32		1763.82	26.6%	2405.83	-7.2%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	January-04		January-03	% Change	December-03	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	18511		32524	-43.1%	31140	-40.6%
Work hours lost	6905.28		17409.5	-60.3%	13820.7	-50%
Overtime	2232.32		1763.82	26.6%	2405.83	-7.2%
<b>Total hours worked</b>	13838.03		16878.32	-18%	19725.13	-29.8%

\* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

\*\* Admin assignment includes, TDY, academy, & staff assignments

## ***STAFFING / WORK HOURS***

### **TRAFFIC OPERATIONS**

In mid-January, the Southern Command Urban Traffic Operations began a modified work schedule. The new 9-hour schedule provides a one-hour overlap between each of the three shifts. We are using this overlap to improve morale, communication, and decrease overtime. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the alternate work schedule.

The Southern Command enjoyed the return of 2 Troopers from military duty in Iraq during January. However, during the month of February we anticipate the loss of 8 troopers to other agencies and a resignation.

### **COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS**

On paper, Commercial Enforcement's trooper vacancies were filled with the move of seven PCN's in Southern Command from Traffic to Commercial. However, currently these troopers remain assigned to Traffic. Until they are physically in Commercial Operations, they will be listed as administrative positions. The Southern Command still has one CVSI vacancy. For the month of January, the Southern Command Commercial Operation had 2 sergeants, 1 acting sergeant, 11 troopers, 1 rural trooper and 4 CVSI's. One sergeant and one trooper are on administrative assignment, one trooper is on extended sick leave, and one trooper is in training. Southern Command Commercial Operations activity in January was generated by ten troopers and two sergeants.

Training for Southern Command Commercial Operations consisted of: COHMED, Dyed Fuel, Threat & Risk Assessment, Defensive Tactics, Level 6 re-certification, and the new hours of service regulations.

Seven WIPP shipments during the month of January had an enormous impact on the Southern Command's productivity. Thirteen percent of work hours available for the month of January was consumed by WIPP shipments. The number of troopers necessary for this function will be reduced for the next phase. The reduction of troopers participating in the WIPP shipment will also improve the Southern Commands ability to meet our CVSP goals.

### **OVERTIME**

Overtime decreased 7% in January compared to last month. Overtime increased this month compared to last January by over 26%. The increase in overtime compared to last year was the result of inclement weather which required additional shift coverage. Additionally, there was a 340 hour increase in the hours of contract service overtime compared to January 2003.

## ***FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY***

### **CRIMINAL INTERDICTION**

During the month of January, the Criminal Interdiction Team conducted 223 traffic stops and 85 motorist assists. These traffic stops resulted in 47 searches, 20 arrests, and one controlled delivery was executed. This resulted in the seizure of the following:

<b>Methamphetamine</b>	2900 grams street value estimated at \$451,936.00
<b>Marijuana</b>	115,549 grams street value estimated at \$101,684.00
<b>Vehicles</b>	1-2002 Chevrolet Tahoe
<b>Cash</b>	\$92,820.00

## RATIOS – CRASHES AND ENFORCEMENT

### CRASH RATIOS

January -04

Region wide crash ratios per Traffic position	
Total	10.2
Property	7.3
Injury	2.8
Fatal	0.1
DUI	0.5
Commercial vehicle	0.5
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash	1.2
without seatbelts	0.3
with seatbelts	0.7

### FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Region wide enforcement ratios per Traffic position	
DUI arrests from crashes	0.5
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	1.3
Other Arrests	7.1
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	3.8
Speed violations	34.3
Hazardous moving violations	20.8
Occupant restraint violations	6.9
Total violations	108.3

### TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

Troopers logged 22,533 contacts with the public. In addition to field enforcement and response to traffic crashes, these incidents included: motorist assists, debris removal, medical assists, allied agency assistance, and traffic hazard mitigation.

The traffic enforcement ratios have been broken down further, to give a more accurate picture of the distribution of workload in the Southern Command between Urban and Rural Operations:

- In the rural areas of the Southern Command Traffic troopers assigned had a crash ratio of approximately 3 crashes per staffed field operations position. One Hundred and ten citations were issued per staffed position and approximately one DUI arrest was made per position.
- In the Urban areas of Southern Command, the crash ratio was approximately 13 crashes per staffed traffic position. Approximately 109 citations were issued per staffed field position and approximately 2 DUI arrests were made per position.

## **RATIOS – CRASHES AND ENFORCEMENT *Cont'd***

### **INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS**

January-04

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations	*	2.5
Other traffic violations - citations	*	11.4
Total safety inspections [all levels]		25.7
Terminal inspections TIP		0.1
Total safety violations -- citation	*	16.2
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.5
Total safety violations -- repair order		98.9
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		3.8
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		11.8
Average vehicles placed "Out of Service" per inspection		0.5
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		4.4
Average drivers placed "Out of Service" per inspection		0.2
Total school buses inspected		8.3
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		0.9
Total trucks weighed	*	13.9
Total overweight citations	*	3.8
Total dyed fuel inspections	*	34.3
Total dyed fuel citations	*	0.1

\* Commercial sworn only

The "Hazardous citations" ratio has decreased from 2.8 in December to 2.5 in January, but increased when compared to the same time period in 2003. The "Other traffic violations" ratio showed an increase from 8.9 in December to 11.4 in January. The ratio of "safety inspections" decreased to 25.7 from 35.4 in December. The decrease in safety inspections is attributable to the increase in training and the WIPP shipments in January. The "Safety violations" ratio decreased as well, this would be expected with the decline in inspections. Trucks weighed, and overweight citations issued, showed an increase, from 7.5 in December, to 13.9 in January.

## **COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS**

### **COMMERCIAL CRASH ANALYSIS**

The region investigated 929 crashes in January, with commercial crashes being approximately 5% of the total. Thirty nine of the commercial crashes were property damage and 8 were injury. There were 2 fatal commercial crashes during the month of January. Of the 49 commercial crashes, 3 were caused by mechanical error, 19 were caused by driver error, and 1 was the result of a spilled load. There were three school bus crashes; the drivers were at fault in all three crashes. There were 10 single units and 35 combination vehicles involved in crashes.

Southern Command continues to see a decrease in the number of commercial crashes. Of the two fatal commercial crashes in January, one driver was at fault, and one was the result of a non contact vehicle.

### **FIELD ENFORCEMENT ANALYSIS**

In an effort to reduce commercial crashes, the Southern Command Commercial Operations section continues to emphasize hazardous moving violations, which increased 66%, as compared to January 2003. Training and WIPP shipments during January reduced the number of hours available for mobile roving enforcement. The number of inspections of commercial motor vehicles was reduced by 21%. When compared to December 2003, January enforcement reflected an increase in all areas of enforcement. The total number of inspections decreased, as a result of the training and WIPP shipments in January. Although there was a reduction in safety violations, there was an increase of 61% in vehicles being placed "out-of-service".

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS**

### **EVIDENCE VAULT**

During the month of January, the evidence vault booked in a total of 200 items for 126 cases. This is a 20% increase in case volume from the previous month. There was a 3% decrease in actual items booked into the vault. A review of the submissions showed that NHP submitted 89% of these items, P&P 8%, Capital Police 1%, and NDI less than 1%.

Total items disposed of were down 23% this month partially due to time spent training of new personnel.

### **CONTRACT SERVICES**

Contract Service had a significant monetary increase for the month of January. Contract Services recorded 446.25 hours of contract time from 5 contracts. These contracts reimbursed the Highway Patrol \$357.00, with \$47,236.10 still pending. Most of the money owed is pending from the Las Vegas Marathon contract service, \$21,023.85. We also collected \$46,269.47 in past contracts owed. This brings the NHP total Contract Service Overtime for Fiscal Year 2003/2004 to 2,011.50 hours from 54 contracts, which reimbursed a total of \$116,118.90.



## **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS**

### **COMMUNICATION CENTER**

The Southern Command scheduled a group orientation of new dispatchers to accelerate the hiring process for the 18 vacancies. The orientation is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and will include personnel from the Background Division, Personnel, Command Staff, Administrative Services, and Communications. The orientation will include an overview of the Department, Division, and positions, along with an interview. One hundred and fifteen letters were mailed to applicants interested in dispatch position. Approximately 83 applicants responded and were sent background packages.

Security issues continue to delay public access to the Media Link via the internet. In January, this resulted in the Communications Center responding to 513 media calls. This number is slightly up from December 2003 which totaled 504.

The dispatch manager completed Custodian of Records requests requiring over 38 work hours.

There were 171,586 radio transmissions and 34,618 phone calls in the month of January.

### **RECORDS SECTION**

The Records section had 779 visitors requesting services in January, a 23% decrease from December 2003. This section processed 961 crash reports, took 28 office reports, and mailed 5,342 reports. There were 160 vehicles released, compared to 156 last month.

This section received 1,128 requests for copies of crash reports. With the assistance of three cadets there, these requests were promptly filled.

Over 246 film rolls were processed and 2,478 film (prints) were requested.

### **OFFICE HIT AND RUN REPORTS**

Administrative Services took 28 crash reports at the front counter, 7 of which were reported as hit and run crashes. We cleared 7 hit and run reports this month.

### **COURT SERVICES SECTION**

The Court Services Section received 744 bench warrants from area courts during January 2004. One hundred forty nine warrants were cleared from the Criminal Justice Information System. This section also validated 3,189 active warrants, checking for accuracy and completeness. Court Services worked 6 hours of overtime to update backlogged warrants; due to one vacant position.

This section arranged 14 transports and accepted two bails in lieu of transporting the prisoners for \$3,110.

### **DATA ENTRY**

The 2003 citation backlog has been cleared with the entry into the old database. The 2004 citations are now being entered in the Crossroads system.

### **AVERAGE BAC**

The average blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of drivers arrested in January was 0.151%. Drivers arrested prior to crashing had an average BAC of 0.149%, and drivers arrested post a crash had an average BAC of 0.162%. Of all drivers arrested, less than 2% tested positive for controlled substance. In addition, 6% of drivers arrested had a prior conviction for DUI. The average age for all drivers arrested for DUI was 35 years old.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **NEW HIRES**

Chandelle Paccione

## **COMMENDATIONS**

- Trooper Pedraza received letters of appreciation from K.O. Knudsen middle school for his participation in a classroom action research project.
- Trooper Dinglasan received a letter of appreciation for assisting citizens when their tire blew out on US95.
- Trooper Juan Hoskins received a letter of appreciation for assisting a citizen when her car broke down on I-15, and he gave her a ride to work.
- Trooper Zbinden received a letter of appreciation from Sushi Chef Restaurant for assisting one of their drivers.
- Trooper Moonin received a letter of appreciation for assisting a citizen when she was involved in an accident with a semi-truck.
- “Lo Jack” wrote to thank Trooper John Howell and Trooper O’Dowd for recovering stolen vehicles.
- The Department of Energy issued Certificates of Appreciation to all personnel involved in the Joint Testing Exercise “Desert Bighorn”, in October of 2003.
- The Command Staff issued a total of 46 commendations to both sworn and civilian personnel from Headquarters, Northern Command, and Central Command. These were given for assisting the Southern Command on New Years Eve.
- Trooper Wolff and Trooper James received a commendation from LVMPD for their participation with the D.A.R.E program. Trooper Wolff also received a commendation from Lt. Hall and a parent of a student for her presentation at the Driver’s Edge class.
- Trooper Timms, from Commercial Enforcement received a commendation from the Command Staff, for responding to an “attempt to locate” and apprehending an Iowa juvenile that had stolen at least one pistol.
- Troopers Eddie Dutchover and Shaun Martin received a commendation from Sgt. Aldridge for the planning and execution of a controlled substance delivery that resulted in the arrests of 3 suspects, and seizure of 5.33 lbs of methamphetamine.
- Major Tilt issued commendation to Captains Perry and Ellison, Lieutenants Cabrales, Tice, and Harney, Acting Lieutenant Weatherford, Sergeants Johnson and Branch, Bruce Robinson, Butch Ivey, Tom Boulware, and Gerald Raab for the installation project involving 150 new 800 MHz radios in Division vehicles over one weekend.

## **COMMENDATIONS...Cont'd**

- Task Force personnel received commendations from Captain Perry for an outstanding level of enforcement, despite the fact that two troopers were temporarily assigned to Traffic Operations.
- The Command Staff issued a total of 21 commendations to both sworn and civilian personnel for their involvement in the Vice Presidential visit.
- Helen Ramsey and Skip Spreitzer both received Certificates of Appreciation for an outstanding performance with flawless time sheet entries.
- Starr Anderson and Melissa Berry both received Certificates of Appreciation for their participation with the Shop with a Cop program.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **“NHP Fly’s High” Story by ABC affiliate KTNV**

CH 13-news story on the Southern Command’s aircraft. Story centered on the pilot’s skills and essential job functions. Story ran on January 2, 3 and 4, 2004.

### **Nellis Air Force Base Incoming Airman’s Briefing**

Personnel reporting to Nellis Air Force Base were presented a class on Nevada traffic laws with special emphasis on seat belt safety and the dangers of driving while intoxicated. January 6, 2004

### **Elvis RV Rally: Laughlin NV**

Two hours presentation directed toward senior citizens that operate recreational vehicles. In attendance were 60 couples. Commercial enforcement assisted with this presentation. January 16, 2004

### **Nellis Air Force Base Incoming Airman’s Briefing**

Personnel reporting to Nellis Air Force Base were presented a class on Nevada traffic laws with special emphasis on seat belt safety and the dangers of driving while intoxicated. January 20, 2004

### **D.A.R.E. Graduation at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School**

LVMPD requested Trp. Richard James to make a presentation to this school’s DARE graduation. This particular school has a high risk factor for involvement with controlled substances. Over 50 students, teachers and parents attended. January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004

### **D.A.R.E. Graduation at Doris Hancock Elementary School**

LVMPD requested NHP assistance in making a presentation to over 100 DARE graduating students. Teachers and parents attended as well. January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

Nevada Highway  
Patrol

Southern Command

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## EVENTS

Special Olympics Torch Run

Tip-a-Cop Special Olympics Fund Raiser at Applebee's  
February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004

NASCAR  
March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, & 7<sup>th</sup>

Drivers Edge Kick Off  
March 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Baker to Vegas  
April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 2004



*"Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don't recognize them."*

*Ann Landers*